



The Well Digger's Daughter

(la fille du púsatier)

Spring
Season
2012

Release: 2011

Cert (UK): PG

Runtime: 109 minutes

Director: Daniel Auteuil

Cast: Daniel Auteuil, Astrid Bergès-Frisbey, Sabine Azéma and Kad Merad



Daniel Auteuil has been a leading actor in French films since the 1970s, rising to fame, certainly in the UK, with *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources* in 1986. Both of these earlier films and this one were all adapted from novels by Marcel Pagnol, who also directed the 1940s version of this film.

In what can only be imagined as an homage to Pagnol, Auteuil direct his first film here, with the promise of three more films to come by this same author; praise indeed.

Auteuil also stars as Pascal, the Well Digger in this film, who is a widower and father of several girls in pre-WWII France. Patricia is his favourite and the most beautiful. (She is played by Astrid Bergès-Frisbey, last seen as a mermaid in *the Pirates of the Caribbean*, but getting good reviews for her portrayal here).

Patricia is being courted by Pascal's middle aged friend Félipe (Kad Merad), but she is swept off her feet by Jacques (Nicolas Duvauchelle) the wealthy son of a local shopkeeper.

Pascal is torn between his sense of honour and his deep love for his saintly daughter when she finds she is pregnant, especially as the young father-to-be has, by this time, flown off to war and his parents think she is on the make.

What follows is a simple Provencal story of love and honour, as Patricia is whisked away to her Aunt's to have her baby in secret. Can anyone bring the family back together again? Can Auteuil direct as well as he can act? All will be revealed here...

